

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 00413 011539Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 SS-15
NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 H-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02 PRS-01 SSO-00
/110 W

-----116290 011546Z /46

O R 011345Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6165

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DPAWASHDC

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VALETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0413

VALETTA FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MOPS

SUBJECT: URGENT REQUEST FGR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. MINISTER ZAKARIA CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT NOON
TODAY TO REQUEST THAT I SEND AN URGENT REQUEST TO
PRESIDENT CARTER FROM PRESIDENT MALLOUM FOR IMMEDIATE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THAT REBEL ATTACK AGAINST
FAYA LARGEAU HAD COMMENCED LAST NIGHT AND WAS CONTINUING.
SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILES ARE BEING EMPLOYED IN THE
ASSAULT AS WERE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES IN THE DOWNING OF
TWO PLANES OVER THE WEEKEND. (FYI: IF REPORT OF SURFACE
TO SURFACE MISSILES IS ACCURATE, MORE SOPHISTICATED TROOPS
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THAN TOUBOU REBELS ARE INVOLVED.) ZAKARIA POINTED OUT THAT
FALL OF FAYA LARGEAU WOULD FORCE THE EVACUATION OF OUNIANGA
KEBIR AND FADA; LEAVING THE NORTHERN HALF OF CHAD IN REBEL
HANDS. HE PREDICTED THAT REBELS WOULD THEN MOVE AGAINST
NDJAMENA WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, AND HE DOUBTED IF GOVERNMENT
COULD WITHSTAND THEM.

2. IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION IS BEING REQUESTED FROM FRIENDLY WESTERN POWERS AS CHADIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES RUSSIAN INTERVENTION THROUGH LIBYA HASGDEACHED SUCH BLATANT PMINT THAT IT IS CLEARLY A SOVIET DESIGN TO OVERTHROW PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND REPLACE IT WITH A SOCIALISTIC ONE.

3. I TOLD ZAKARIA I WOULD TRANSMIT REQUEST IMMEDIATELY AND WOULD GET BACK TO HIM AS SOON AS I HAD A REPLY. HOWEVER, I CAUTIONED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS PROBABLY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

4. WHILE ZAKARIA'S PREDICTION ON SOUTH MAY BE OVERLY PESSIMISTIC, CHADIAN GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY ON BRINK OF DISASTER AND IF WE ARE GOING TO DO ANYTHING TO IPPORT IT, WE MUST ACT SOON. WHILE IT IS DOUBTFUL IFN COULD DO ANYTHING SOON ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF PRESENT FIGHTING IN THE NORTH, A STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND THE ARRIVAL BY AIR OF SOME AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FROM A THIRD COUNTRY COULD REENFORCE THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORT TO HOLD THE SOUTH TOGETHER.

5. IN VIEW OF URGENCY AND PRESIDENT'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT, I NEED SOME SORT OF IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.BRADFORD

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NNN

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